(b) and (c) Next year's decision will depend upon the procurement and the estimated demand during that year.

(d) During the Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07 and 2007-08, 92.25 and 111.28 lakh tonnes of wheat respectively, was procured for the Central Pool.

(e) The decision to import wheat during 2006-07 and 2007-08 was taken to meet the shortfall in the Central Pool for meeting the requirements of Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), other welfare schemes and to take care of any emergencies like floods etc.

(f) The details of production and procurement of wheat in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is given below:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Crop year	Marketing Year	Production	Procurement
2005-06	2006-07	693.55	92.25
2006-07	2007-08	748.90	111.28

Procurement by FCI

2002. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether procurement of rice and wheat by FCI declined drastically this year;

(b) if so, the details of the procurement of rice and wheat by FCI;

(c) the reasons for the decline in procurement;

(d) whether multinational companies are also procuring rice and wheat in the country;

(e) whether there is any restriction on quantity of procurement by such companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government would consider such steps, alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) There was a slight decline in the procurement of rice by the Government Agencies [State Agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI)] for the Central Pool in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2006-07 (250.75 lakh tonnes as against 276.56 lakh tonnes in KMS 2005-06). However the procurement of wheat has increased from 92.25 lakh tonnes in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2006-07 to 111.28 lakh tonnes in RMS 2007-08. Procurement of rice in KMS 2006-07 was less than KMS 2005-06 mainly on account of crop diversification and unfavourable weather conditions in some parts of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. resulting in less paddy arrivals in mandis.

(d) to (f) As per the present policy, farmers are free to sell their produce to the Government agencies at MSP, or to the private parties, including Multinational Companies as is advantageous to them. This ensures remunerative prices to the farmers. No restriction on quantity of procurement by Multinational Companies has been imposed by the Government of India. However, a notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 on

1.3.2007. The order provides that any Company or Firm or individual which purchases wheat beyond 50,000 tonnes during 2007-08 shall furnish to the Central Government a return indicating the name/address of the company, quantity of wheat purchased and quantity of wheat held in stock. A notification titled "Rice (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007 has also been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 on 27.11.2007. The order provides that any Company or Firm or Individual which purchases paddy (in terms of rice) or rice beyond 10,000 tonnes during Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08 (October-September) shall furnish a return to the Secretary, Department of Food of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased. If the overall purchase of rice in the country exceeds 25,000 tonnes (in terms of rice), a return in prescribed format is to be filed with the Department of Food & Public Distribution of Central Government. The concerned State Government with which returns are filed will submit a consolidated monthly report to Central Government.

Mosquito coil formulation based on agricultural pesticides

2003. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any applications on proposals for sanctioning household mosquito coil formulation based on agricultural pesticides like Bifenthrin, DDT, Cyperperthrin and deltamethrin;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto in view of health hazards to users by such agricultural insecticides; and

(c) whether Government has fixed any formula-rules for manufacturing household mosquito coils in the country so that users health could not be hampered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) It has been informed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, that the Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee has received an application for registration of Bifenthrin 0.05% Mosquito Coil. The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 (Under Section 5) registers pesticides only after satisfying itself their bio-efficacy and safety to human beings and animals after scrutinizing their formulae and verifying claims made by the importer or the manufacturer. The Committee has formulated the guidelines for registration of pesticides for use in household purposes, which includes mosquito coils also.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has also formulated an Indian Standards on "Allethrin-Mosquito Coils" (IS13438:1992). This standard is voluntary is nature and prescribes the requirements and the methods of sampling and test for mosquito coils containing allethrin. There is no BIS licencee presently on mosquito coil.

Research on Homoeopathy

2004. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Central Government on research in the homoeopathic